

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 H-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15

NSC-05 /045 W

----- 031045

R 112241Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3653

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8454

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, EC

SUBJ: CIVAIR - BRANIFF

REF: QUITO 8366

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON DAC SUAREZ DECEMBER 10 AND GAVE HIM LETTER FROM BRANIFF MANAGER EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR THE CHANGES IN ITS JULY 1 SCHEDULE THAT WERE APPROVED BY DAC AND BECAME EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 27. EMBOFF SAID HE WAS SURE THAT LT. COL. SUAREZ OF ECUATORIANA HAD EXPLAINED TO HIM THE CONCERN AND INDIGNATION THAT HIS DECEMBER 4 LETTER TO BRANIFF PROVOKED IN WASHINGTON. IT COULD BE READ AS REQUIRING BRANIFF TO CANCEL FOUR FLIGHTS AT A TIME WHEN BRANIFF WAS TO ACQUIRE FIVE ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, SUAREZ ANSWERED DEFENSIVELY AND WITH INJURED INNOCENCE THAT HE IS OF COURSE A SERIOUS PERSON WHO MADE A COMMITMENT TO THE CHIEF OF THE US CIVAIR DELEGATION AND THAT HE CARRIES OUT HIS COMMITMENTS. IF BRANIFF THOUGHT IT FACED A PROBLEM, ITS MANAGER SHOULD SIMPLY HAVE CALLED ON HIM AS HE HAS SO MANY TIMES IN THE PAST AND THEY COULD HAVE WORKED OUT A SOLUTION AS ALWAYS. IN GENERAL, SUAREZ INDICATED THAT IF THERE WERE ANY PROBLEM IT MUST BE BRANIFF'S FAULT. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER VISIT FROM BRANIFF MANAGER WOULD STILL BE REQUIRED AND SUAREZ REPLIED THAT THE LETTER WOULD SUFFICE. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT USG ROLE AT PRESENT

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ARISES FROM FACT THAT AGREEMENT TO INCREASE FREQUENCIES WAS

MADE BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND THAT BRANIFF IS ONLY AN INSTRUMENT. HE ASKED THAT SUAREZ APPROVE THE SCHEDULE CHANGES LISTED IN BRANIFF'S LETTER IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND ALLOW THE USG AND EMBASSY TO TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO OTHER MATTERS. SUAREZ SAID HE WOULD HAVE THE MATTER ATTENDED TO IMMEDIATELY.

2. EMBOFF SAID THAT THE TWO AIRLINES ARE HAPPY WITH THEIR OPERATIONS UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND THAT THE ONLY THING LACKING IS SUAREZ' AUTHORIZATION FOR THESE OPERATIONS (*). HE SAID THAT BRANIFF AND THE EMBASSY HAD TO MAKE A DIFFICULT DECISION TO OPERATE ACCORDING TO THE OCTOBER 27 SCHEDULE PLUS THE FIVE ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES FROM DECEMBER 5 PENDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY WITH THE DAC HIS LETTER OF DECEMBER 4. THE DECISION TO OPERATE IN THAT FASHION MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS A VIOLATION OF HIS DECEMBER 4 LETTER OF BY THAT LETTER THE DAC HAD MEANT TO CANCEL THE FLIGHTS IN QUESTION. EMBOFF SAID HE WANTED SUAREZ TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE ALTERNATIVE DECISION TO CANCEL THE FLIGHTS IN QUESTION WOULD HAVE CREATED A FAR WORSE SITUATION, PROBABLY STRONG CAB REACTION. EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT HE FELT SURE SUAREZ WOULD NOT HAVE WANTED HIS LETTER TO PRECIPITATE THAT SITUATION. SUAREZ LISTENED TO ALL THIS INTENTLY AND MADE NO COMMENT, PRESUMABLY BECUASE HE NEITHER WANTED TO ENDORSE THE DECISION TO GO RIGHT ON OPERATING ACCORDING TO THE OCTOBER 27 SCHEDULE NOR TO SAY THAT HE REALLY DID MEAN FOR BRANIFF TO CANCEL FOUR FLIGHTS.

3. SINCE BRANIFF HAS NOT RECEIVED ITS WRITTEN REPLY, EMBOFF CHECKED BACK WITH SUAREZ' OFFICE ON DECEMBER 11 AND WAS TOLD THAT THE REPLY IS BEING PREPARED.
HEMENWAY

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